

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application  
based on International Application No. PCT/EP99/08211  
Filed October 29, 1999  
Inventor(s) HABERHAUSEN *et al.*

For: **NEW PRIMERS AND PROBES FOR THE DETECTION OF HIV**

Attorney Docket No.: 4933

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box PCT  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Alameda, CA 94501  
April 30, 2001

Sir:

Prior to examining the above-referenced application as entering the National Stage under 35 U.S.C. §371, please consider the following amendments and remarks.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

At page 32, line 1, of the English translation of the International Application, please delete "Claims" and insert therefor --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: --.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A method [Method] for the subtype-independent [and/]or species-independent detection of nucleic acids of HI viruses in a sample comprising [by] (a) hybridizing the nucleic acids with an oligonucleotide combination comprising two or more oligonucleotides which hybridize specifically with HIV nucleic